**Focus Group: 0-8 years**

**21 September 2011**

**2.30-4.40pm**

**Key Questions Discussion**

What advantages are there from being 0-18 organisation?

* Consistent approach for families.
* More accessible.
* Consistency for students especially kids who don’t cope with change.
* Improved understanding of development 0-18.
* Sharing facilities and professional learning.
* Strengthen links with community.
* More uniform curriculum and language.
* Being able to have discussion- talking same language.
* Look at framework having early childhood and schools understand links between VELS and VEYLDF.
* Seamless transition early childhood to prep.
* Better understand transition reports.
* Access of parents to schools.
* Prep teachers going into kinders
* Better communication
* Parents perceptions better links
* Consistent guidelines eg eligibility for 2nd year kinder
* Better coordination between services
* More consistent assessment
* Parents feel less vulnerable coming into school
* 0-8 barrier
* Transition

What can we learn from each other?/ Where are the biggest gains to be made?

* Meetings/discussions between prep teachers and early childhood
* Increased parent engagement/participation
* Understanding of transition reports
* Discuss different services available- same understanding
* Coaching models have been very successful in schools may also be useful for early childhood
* Shared professional learning
* Common language
* School wanting to understand what is the curriculum in kinder?

What are 2-3 priority areas for initiatives?

* Work with small number of schools, kinders local councils to improve access for aboriginal children
* Work with schools with all services on one site kinder and school to develop quality models
* Increase parent engagement and participation
* Schools having playgroups at end term4 to make it easier for children to transition
* In all schools better transition to meet students needs
* Kinder curriculum/transition statements that talks to the VELS.